

Edgewood Advertiser.

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A. SIMKING, D. E. DURRANCE & F. KEESE

Proprietors.

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All communications of a personal character, Obituary Notices, Reports, Resolutions or Proceedings of any Society, Association or Corporation, will be charged as advertisements.

For the Advertiser.

Fellow-Citizens of Edgewood District:

The Honorable Senator from Edgewood, and the Editor of the Edgewood *Advertiser*, in his paper of last week, under the head of "The Lecture," says, "This body adjourned on Friday evening, after a session, which was marked by very little of merit, and went up to bed." "Taking it all in all we think it would have been better if the Legislature had not been called together."

With much respect for our honorable Senator, I dissent from the conclusion in regard to the action of the Legislature and the importance of its adjournment. And, as it happened, I differ from him and my colleagues on the Bill to prohibit and punish the planting more than one acre of Cotton to the hands. I desire to state some of the reasons for my vote on that bill.

It cannot be denied that the Act referred to, and others passed at the last Session, have the appearance of extraordinary legislation, and cannot be justified except on the ground that an extraordinary state of things exists to warrant such an exercise of power by the Legislature. Do such extraordinary facts exist to warrant the legislature to interfere in a matter of such prime importance as that of prohibiting the citizen from planting on his own land, and cultivating with his own hands, any crop he may think best and most profitable for himself? I answer you, In my opinion such facts do exist, and I believe the Act of the Legislature referred to is right under the circumstances in which the country is placed, and that no constitutional right of the citizen is violated by it.

It is to be regretted that the Act was not passed earlier, as thereby some labor would have been saved; but the Act not having been passed at an earlier day, it was right to pass it in April, at the extra Session; and our patriotic Government deserves the commendation of the country for concurring the Legislature to consider of this and other matters of prime importance to the country generally.

The recent action of the Legislature, as I look at it, was marked by much merit. The Legislature is composed mainly of farmers and planters. It looked well both in the face and showed itself equal to the task of yielding the expectation of private gain to the public weal, which is one of the highest evidences of true patriotism.

But what are the facts to justify the passage of the Cotton Act? The people of the Confederate States are engaged in a struggle for their independence, a struggle which demands all their powers and energies. To maintain this struggle entire white male population of the Confederate States, between the ages of eighteen and forty years, is under arms in the field. A large proportion of the men who are in the field fighting nobly and heroically for Southern independence, in times of peace and quiet are the laborers of the country. They have their families and their households, comprising a very large proportion of the population of the Confederate States. Many of them are not slaveholders. In ordinary times they support themselves and their families by their own labor. Their labor being mainly directed to the production of the prime necessities of life, in times of peace, adds vastly to the actual amount of provisions in the country, and is one of the chief sources from which the surplus provisions flow. This class of labor is almost entirely withdrawn from agricultural pursuits, and instead of feeding themselves and their families, as they are accustomed to do, they and their families must be fed from other sources. Let no one conclude that the amount of provisions from this quarter is inconsiderable, because the amount produced by each one is small. The aggregate products of this class of our people is large, and when lost to the country and forced to be made up from other sources must be seriously felt. And to us who are forced to look at things as they are, and who cannot avoid the responsibilities resting upon us as a legislator, and whose duty it is to meet the contingencies of these trying times, fairly and firmly, without regard to the rights of all parties, it is a consideration of startling importance.

W. W. ADAMS.

Our Prisoners at Camp Douglas.

Among the prisoners brought up by the flag of truce boat, on last Monday, were some from the West, who have been confined at Camp Douglas, at Chicago. The very sight of the poor fellows is enough to strike pity to the heart. We wish the Government could hear their tales of suffering and distress, and we hope that they will take some steps to lay their grievances before the authorities here.

Camp Douglas is worse than the Hole of Calcutta. Not satisfied with putting our men to death by suffering and torture, the Yankee demons have taken to poisoning them. The little things such as pens and cakes, that our poor prisoners would buy out of their few remaining cents, had killed a number of our men, and on an investigation being ordered, the food analyzed, poison was plainly detected; and its presence admitted by the Yankee surgeon! The authorities tried to exculpate themselves by laying it to an old Irish woman who was permitted to paddle cakes among the prisoners.

The death of our men at Camp Douglas has been appalling. One of our prisoners estimates that in the short space of three months there were over seven hundred and fifty deaths. This was caused by a combination of causes—the low, wet and marshy situation of the camp, being half in water; the fifth and sermin of the place, and the long and dreary confinement of our men. In fact, some of the prisoners who came up by the last flag of truce had languished there for nearly two years, and their debilitated, sorrow-stricken and emaciated faces bore testimony of more than they told of their suffering.

The suffering to which our brave men have been subjected by the demons men have torn the heart to tears. Even in the cold winter, when our prisoners were taken from the West, in midwinter, they were sent almost in a body for the resolutions. The savages from Anderson and Abbeville were absent, and there is a vacancy in Laurens. Otherwise we believe the resolutions would have been easily passed. As it was, it will be seen that senators representing the bulk of the people want for them, but were defeated by those representing a minority. We therefore say, it is not an expression of sentiment which the State will countenance; and we trust there will be an outburst of popular opinion, especially in Charleston and Columbia, despite the contrary influence of money-dealers and timid capitalists.

But to the resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That the success of the Confederate States of America in the war now wage against their rights and liberties, and the establishment of their independence on a sure and permanent foundation, are intimately connected with the measures that may be adopted to sustain their credit.

Resolved, 2. That in the opinion of this General Assembly, the welfare of the Confederate Government, to sustain ultimately all its debt and obligations, demands strict adherence upon the solution of the question of the independence of these States, which can no longer be regarded a doubtful issue, if the people remain true to themselves, and steadfastly adhere to the great principles for the maintenance of which they have pledged themselves, their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

Resolved, 3. That any attempt to deprive the currency of the Confederate States by refusing the same in payment of debts, or by any other means, while it exhibits a want of patriotism and fidelity to the cause in which we are engaged, has a direct tendency to impair the liberties and independence of these States, and should be disdained by all good and true citizens.

Redeemed. That it is the duty of the State of the Confederacy, acting in their two sovereign capacities, to adopt all constitutional measures which will have the effect to sustain the credit of the Confederate Government, and provide against the depreciation of its currency.

Resolved. 5. That it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire and report, as to the constitutionality and expediency of an Act to authorize and compel all public officers of this State, charged with the receipt of amounts, either for the State or individual citizens, the Treasury Notes of the Confederate States when tendered, and, also, to compel creditors to receive said notes in payment of debts, when tendered, on the penalty for refusing, or being delayed in collecting the interest which may thereafter accrue in any of the Courts of this State for the collection of the same, within two years after a ratification of peace between the Confederate States and the United States.

On their way from the West, our prisoners were still objects of persecution and malignity of the Yankees, and were made to travel two long days without a morsel of food. They left Camp Douglas about two thousand prisoners, who were to be exchanged, and were leaving in bodies of four and five hundred. It was hoped by our men that they would soon be out of the clutches of the demons who had landed it over them with a tyranny and cruelty worse than that of the dark ages. Richwood Examiner.

It is said that Secretary Memmington, whose home is Charleston, sent word to Gen. Beauregard at the time of the expected attack, to let his house go if necessary, but "he" should expect him to defend the fort. We do not know that he did, but the fort was captured.

A. M. HARRIS.

The Georgia Legislature adjourned on the 14th,

country and forced to rely upon the provisions of certain communities to subsist upon? In such a contingency, who would hazard likely to suffer, the army or the people at home? Not this all. In the event of war, we are driven back by the enemy, we will be compelled to submit not only our own people at home and our nation, but we may be compelled also to feed the Yankee armies in a greater extent, for they are not over-scrupulous under such circumstances. In any event, we shall be able to feed the population of home and those in the army who have gone out from us. An urgent and imminent but fair proportion towards satisfying those who are driven from their homes and are no longer able to sustain themselves.

There is another consideration that is by no means unimportant in making up a hypothesis of the question of supply. It is this. From the various districts of the South, we insist upon paying the subscription price. Thank you.

He says, "Farmers are hourly at work plowing their cotton fields, and are getting a good crop, and are getting a fair proportion towards satisfying those who are driven from their homes and are no longer able to sustain themselves.

There is still another consideration not unimportant in itself. It is this. It is estimated that there are about four million bales of cotton now in the Confederate States that would go to market if the blockade were raised, which, added to what is in the present year, will be supply sufficient to meet the demand for cotton for the next year, and it is reasonable to suppose that the price will not greatly increase. So that it is not unlikely that the products will receive very nearly, if not quite as much money, for the cotton he now has, as he would receive if he were allowed to increase largely the supply by the crop of this year.

The number tells us that the small farms are desolated and devastated. This may be true to some extent, and the issue of January was intended to provide for this kind of cases of emergency by making the production of cottonque in the State. Last year many planted largely in cotton and had no crop to speak of. The Legislature failed that this might be the case again, and therefore, legislated so that planters in their neighborhoods should plant very largely in cotton. Why could we not wait until the law?

There cannot be a doubt that enough would have been made under it to fit all our purposes. As the needy families of soldiers they must and will be provided for. They are provided for by special amendment.

We are all at anxiety as to the number from Edgewood that the poor should not suffer. But how you propose to avert this suffering by intercepting the whole planting interest at a critical period of the cropping year, we do not yet understand. The planter may make a little more corn, but it will not compare in value with the cotton he would have produced. Your law, without materially increasing the corn crop, considerably diminishes the former's resources, and, by consequence, his ability to support his country and his needy countrymen. Bear in mind all the while that a law was already in existence in obedience to which he was planting from thirteenth to sixteen acres of corn to the land, which would be at least thirty two acres of corn to the acre.

In many cases much more. What more could you reasonably ask of the planter—we say nothing of the farmer? You impose upon the poor dumb laborers two more acres to be first planted and then plowed in crop, and every farmer knows the difference, to themselves, between cultivating hogs and cotton. This will require higher feeding for the hogs, and the additional corn that is consumed, first during the crop-making and then afterwards to mend the overtaken lack—this corn, we say, and the cotton seed lost—for it is of no account for a man to put in unskilled and barely covered beneath the surface—this corn and cotton seed, we say, counted with the probable loss in labor calculation at a very pressing season of the crop-year, will, all together, cause any increased abundance you propose to attain by your unimpeachable legislation. How then will this benefit the poor or anyone else? Is this what you call "looking at things as they are?"

But the army must have bread we are told, and, we would add, shall and will have bread. President Davis says the army has an abundance of bread. The Georgia Legislature rejected the proposed limitation on cotton the other day by a large majority, because upon comparing notes they found that this hub and eye of famine had originated in the town and villages where they wanted corn (already the cheapest commodity in market) to become still cheaper, and that in point of fact, Georgia already held more corn than there was transportation for. They therefore voted to remove the cotton limitation. The President judges that the difficulty of transportation is a great one, and we doubt not his appeal is intended specially to urge those States nearest the front to do all they can in raising heavier supplies than they have done for the last year or two. Yet he does not say that the army is on short rations in the article of meat. This is unfortunate. But how does your cotton limitation proceed to remedy it?

Say that a little more corn will be raised, does that necessarily increase the meat? By no means. The farmers would have fatten all the hogs to be fattened, under the law of January—they can do no more under the law of April. Not under the law of January they would have added something to the only article of exchange (Cotton) which can, should the war come to the worst, induce us to buy food, rice, etc., from our principal cities. He administers a rebuke to speculators who are concerned in the creation of the general distress, and calls upon the people to unite their energies and efforts for the prevention of the only danger that now menaces the independence of the Young Republic.

You have then clearly before you fellow-citizens the means by which the freedom of your country can be achieved, and maintained; and you know how, by whom, instrumentally, this can be accomplished, and upon whom now rests the solemn responsibility of its failure or success. There are only ten classes now successfully engaged in the accumulation of wealth. And those are the producer, the planter, the soldier, and the manufacturer.

Upon the farmer then rests the miserable and unhappy, or fortunate termination of this war.

Our arms are successful everywhere; and our enemies are only jubilant now at the prospect of our subjugation by starvation.

Upon the planter then rests the misery of existence.

Upon the soldier then rests the misery of death.

Upon the manufacturer then rests the misery of bankruptcy.

Upon the planter then rests the misery of the

war.

Upon the soldier then rests the misery of the

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Upon the manufacturer then rests the misery of

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